

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

WILTSHIRE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE
5 June 2014

WILTSHIRE PENSION FUND RISK REGISTER

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Committee in relation to changes to the Fund's Risk Register (see Appendix).

Background

2. The Committee approved a Risk Register for the Wiltshire Pension Fund at its meeting on 12 May 2009. Members requested that the highlights, particularly upward/downward movements in individual risks, be reported back to the Committee on a quarterly basis.

Key Considerations for the Committee / Risk Assessment / Financial Implications

3. The significance of risks is measured by interaction of the likelihood of occurrence (likelihood) and the potential impact of such an occurrence (impact). This register uses the Council's standard "4x4" approach, which produces a risk status of Red, Amber or Green (RAG).
4. There has been one change since the last report in March 2014.
5. ***PEN006a/b: Significant rises in employer contributions for secure & non-secure employers due to increases in liabilities*** This risk has now been reduced from amber to green following the implementation of new employer contribution rates from the 2013 Triennial Valuation. This is a risk that is beyond the Fund's control to a certain extent due to the liabilities direct reliance on bond yields in the market. These are still at historical low levels so significant increases are at present unlikely. Also, as the employer contribution rates have been finalised these will not change over the next three years as a minimum, so the risk of significant increases in employer contribution rates is currently minimal in the short term.
6. The three remaining amber risks all relate in part to the implementation of the new LGPS 2014 scheme. The implementation strategy has gone well and the new scheme is now in place. As the Transitional Regulations and Government Actuary Department guidance were only issued by the Government in March, it was not possible to amend and sign off all processes by 1 April 2014. Also, some areas of the pension software still require further updates and as such manual calculations are carried out in these cases in the interim. However, the key procedures have been amended and when the remaining areas have been fully implemented a compliance review of all these processes will then be undertaken which will provide the assurance that this risk can then be reduced.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposals

7. There is no known environmental impact of this report.

Safeguarding Considerations/Public Health Implications/Equalities Impact

8. There are no known implications at this time.

Proposals

9. The Committee is asked to note the attached Risk Register and measures being taken to mitigate risks.

MICHAEL HUDSON
Treasurer to the Pension Fund

Report Author: David Anthony, Head of Pensions

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report: NONE

Wiltshire Pension Fund Risk Register				22-May-14			Current Risk Rating			Target Risk Rating									
Ref.	Risk	Risk Category	Cause	Impact	Risk Owner	Controls in place to manage the risk	Impact	Likelihood	x	Level of risk	Further Actions necessary to manage the risk	Risk Action Owner	Date for completion of action	Impact	Likelihood	x	Level of risk	Date of Review	Direction of Travel
PEN001	Failure to process pension payments and lump sums on time	Service Delivery	Non-availability of ALTAIR pensions system, SAP payroll system, key staff, or error, omission, etc.	Retiring staff will be paid late, which may have implications for their own finances. It also has reputational risk for the Fund and a financial cost to the employers if interest has to be paid to the members.	David Anthony	Maintenance and update of ALTAIR and SAP systems, sufficient staff cover arrangements, sufficient staff training and QA checking of work.	2	2	4	Low	Regular review of ALTAIR calculations are more thoroughly tested, especially to ensure regulations changes are correctly processed. Test system now in place for LGPS 2014 and operational. Review of processes as part of the LGPS 2014 implementation on-going	David Anthony		2	2	4	Low	22 May 2014	→
PEN002	Failure to collect and account for contributions from employers and employees on time	Finance	Non-availability of CRS/SAP systems, key staff, error, omission, failure of employers' financial systems, failure to communicate with employers effectively. LGPS 2014	Adverse audit opinion for failure to collect contributions by 19th of month, potential delays to employers' FRS17 year-end accounting reports and to the Fund's own year-end accounts.	David Anthony	Robust maintenance and update of ALTAIR and SAP systems, sufficient staff cover arrangements, sufficient staff training and QA checking of work. We constantly work with employers to ensure they understand their responsibilities to pay by 19th of the month.	2	1	2	Low	New electronic forms rolled out to all employers to allow collation of membership and contributions detail by member to facilitate monthly reconciliations ahead of year end.	Catherine Dix		2	2	4	Low	22 May 2014	→
PEN003	Insufficient funds to meet liabilities as they fall due	Service Delivery	Contributions from employees / employers too low, failure of investment strategy to deliver adequate returns, significant increases in longevity, etc.	Immediate cash injections would be required from the scheme employers. This shouldn't be an issue for the Fund but it looks likely that investment income might need to be used within the next 12 months.	David Anthony	Funding Strategy Statement, Investment Strategy, Triennial Valuations, membership of Club Vita, modelling of future cashflows.	2	2	4	Low	The "maturity" profile of cashflows is changing as a result of employers outsourcings and redundancy programmes. The cashflow profile is now being carefully monitored as benefits paid slightly exceeded receipts (excluding investment income) during the last financial year.	David Anthony		4	1	4	Low	22 May 2014	→
PEN004	Inability to keep service going due to loss of main office, computer system or staff	Service Delivery	Fire, bomb, flood, etc.	Temporary loss of ability to provide service	David Anthony	Business Continuity Plan in place. The team have the ability to work from home or remotely if required. The pension system is also hosted by its supplier, which reduces the risk should Wiltshire Council's IT servers fail.	4	1	4	Low	Business Continuity Plan has been refreshed in and approved by the CFO in Oct 2011. All the team now have laptops that would mean they can access ALTAIR remotely if required.	Andy Cunningham		4	1	4	Low	22 May 2014	→
PEN005	Loss of funds through fraud or misappropriation	Fraud / Integrity	Fraud or misappropriation of funds by an employer, agent or contractor	Financial loss to the Fund	David Anthony	Internal and External Audit regularly test that appropriate controls are in place and working. Regulatory control reports from investment managers, custodian, etc. are also reviewed by audit. Due Diligence is carried out whenever a new manager is appointed. Reliance is also placed in Financial Services Authority registration.	4	1	4	Low	None	Catherine Dix		4	1	4	Low	22 May 2014	→

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PEN006a	Significant rises in employer contributions for secure employers due to increases in liabilities	Economic	Scheme liabilities increase disproportionately as a result of increased longevity, falling bond yields, slack employer policies, etc. The current increase in Quantitative Easing by the Government is forcing up the price of gilts leading to a worsening Funding Position.	Employer contribution rates become unacceptable, causing upward pressure on Council Tax and employers' costs.	David Anthony	Longevity and bond yields are really beyond the control of the Fund although some Funds have considered buying longevity insurance through the use of SWAPS. However, the Fund and each employer must have a Discretions Policy in place to help control discretionary costs (e.g. early retirements, augmented service, etc). Quarterly monitoring in liabilities movements is undertaken providing advance warning to employers.	2	1	2	Low	The Stabilisation Policy has limited increases for secure employer. Monitor cashflow profiles to review Fund's maturity. This policy was reviewed at the July 2013 Committee meeting and is to be maintained for the 2013 Valuation. As bond yields are at historical low levels and the Stabilisation Policy takes a long term view, rates will not increase significantly over the long term.	David Anthony / Andy Cunningham		2	2	4	Low	22 May 2014	↓
PEN006b	Significant rises in employer contributions for non-secure employers due to increases in liabilities	Economic	Scheme liabilities increase disproportionately as a result of increased longevity, falling bond yields, slack employer policies, etc. The current increase in Quantitative Easing by the Government is forcing up the price of gilts leading to a worsening Funding Position.	Employer contribution rates become unacceptable, causing upward pressure on Council Tax and employers' costs.	David Anthony	Longevity and bond yields are really beyond the control of the Fund although some Funds have considered buying longevity insurance through the use of SWAPS. However, the Fund and each employer must have a Discretions Policy in place to help control discretionary costs (e.g. early retirements, augmented service, etc). Quarterly monitoring as described above. The 2013 Valuation has set rates for the next 3 years.	2	2	4	Low	The rates for the 2013 Valuation were agreed and through the use of stepping in of contribution rate increases where requested the need for large increases was avoided for certain employers. This "contribution relief" policy was reviewed and maintained at the July 2013 Committee meeting for the 2013 Valuation process. Monitor cashflow profiles to review Fund's maturity.	David Anthony / Andy Cunningham		2	2	4	Low	22 May 2014	↓
PEN007a	Significant rises in employer contributions for secure employers due to poor/negative investment returns	Economic	Poor economic conditions, wrong investment strategy, poor selection of investment managers	Poor/negative investment returns, leading to increased employer contribution rates	David Anthony	Use of expert consultants in the selection of investment strategy and selection of investment managers, regular monitoring of investment managers (1/4ly), regular reviews of investment strategy (annually). There is a monthly review of the % of the Fund held in each mandate and strategy.	2	1	2	Low	The implementation of the Stabilisation Policy limits increases for secure employer. This policy was reviewed at the July 2013 Committee meeting and is to be maintained for the 2013 Valuation.	Catherine Dix	Mar-14	2	2	4	Low	22 May 2014	→
PEN007b	Significant rises in employer contributions for non-secure employers due to poor/negative investment returns	Economic	Poor economic conditions, wrong investment strategy, poor selection of investment managers	Poor/negative investment returns, leading to increased employer contribution rates	David Anthony	Use of expert consultants in the selection of investment strategy and selection of investment managers, regular monitoring of investment managers (1/4ly), regular reviews of investment strategy (annually). There is a monthly review of the % of the Fund held in each mandate and strategy.	2	2	4	Low	The review of employers long term financial stability and the policy for stepping in of contribution rates assists in affordability issues and this "contribution relief" policy was reviewed and maintained at the July 2013 Committee meeting for the 2013 Valuation process. Valuation rates have now been agreed for the next 3 years.	Catherine Dix	Mar-14	2	2	4	Low	22 May 2014	→

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PEN008	Failure to comply with LGPS and other regulations	Legal / Statutory	Lack of technical expertise / staff resources to research regulations, IT systems not kept up-to-date with legislation, etc	Wrong pension payments made or estimates given. Investment in disallowed investment vehicles or failure to comply with governance standards. Effect: Unhappy customers, tribunals, Ombudsman rulings, fines, adverse audit reports, etc	David Anthony	Sufficient staffing, training and regulatory updates. Competent software provider and external consultants.	3	2	6	Medium	Pension team structure review ensured staff with the relevant skills & knowledge are in post. The Technical & Compliance formulated training plan for the team. There is a project plan for the new scheme. The new regulations have been published however we are still reviewing the transitional regulations which were only released two weeks before the new scheme started.	David Anthony	Mar-14	2	2	4	Low	22 May 2014	→→→
PEN009	Failure to hold personal data securely	Legal / Statutory	Poor procedures for data transfer to partner organisations, poor security of system, poor data retention, disposal, backup and recovery policies and procedures.	Poor data, lost or compromised	David Anthony	Compliance with Wiltshire Council's Data Protection & IT Policies.	2	2	4	Low	It is intended to do a full data protection audit for the Fund. An imaging system has now been implemented which will improve retention of documents and ultimately will lead to a paperless working environment.	Tim O'Connor	Dec-14	2	1	2	Low	22 May 2014	→→→
PEN010	Failure to keep pension records up-to-date and accurate	Knowledge / Data / Info	Poor or non-existent notification to us by employers and members of new starters, changes, leavers, etc	Incorrect records held, leading to incorrect estimates being issues to members and incorrect pensions potentially being paid.	David Anthony	Systems Team constantly working to improve data quality, data validation checks carried out through external partners (e.g. the Fund's actuaries and tracing agencies), pro-active checks done through national fraud initiative.	2	3	6	Medium	Further reconciliations have been implemented between Wiltshire Council payroll and the Fund's data. The new LGPS 2014 requires different data from employers. Checks need to be made this is correct.	Martin Downes	Dec-14	2	1	2	Low	22 May 2014	→→→
PEN011	Lack of expertise of Pension Fund Officers and Service Director, Finance	Professional judgement & activities	Lack of training, continuous professional development and continuous self assessment of skills gap to ensure knowledge levels are adequate to carry out roles to the best of their ability	Bad decisions made may be made in relation to any of the areas on this register, but particularly in relation to investments.	David Anthony	Officers ensure that they are trained and up-to-date in the key areas through attendance at relevant courses and seminars, reading, discussions with consultants and peers, etc. The Technical & Compliance Manager has formulated annual Training Plans and Relevant officers are also reviewed against the CIPFA Knowledge & Skills Framework to ensure adequate expertise exists.	2	2	4	Low	The team restructure now provides better technical knowledge at the right levels. All key posts are now filled.	David Anthony		2	1	2	Low	22 May 2014	→→→

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PEN012	Over-reliance on key officers	Organisation Management / HR	The specialist nature of the work means that there are inevitably relatively experts in investments and the local authority pension regulations	If someone leaves or becomes ill, a big knowledge gap if less behind.	David Anthony	Key people in the team are seeking to transfer specialist knowledge to colleagues. In the event of a knowledge gap, however, we can call on our external consultants and independent advisors for help in the short-term.	2	2	4	Low	The post of Strategic Pension Manager has now been filled which provides additional support that mitigates this risk. A Pension Fund Accountant has been appointed so no vacancies is key posts.	David Anthony	Mar-14	2	1	2	Low	22 May 2014	→
PEN013	Failure to communicate properly with stakeholders	Stakeholders	Lack of clear communications policy and action, particularly with employers and scheme members.	Scheme Members are not aware of the rights and privileges of being in the scheme and may make bad decisions as a result. Employers are not aware of the regulations, the procedures, etc, and so the data flow from them is poor.	David Anthony	The Fund has a Communications Manager and Employer Relationship Manager dedicated to these areas full-time, including keeping the website up-to-date, which is a key communications resource. The Fund also has a Communications Policy.	2	2	4	Low	A comprehensive communication strategy has now been implemented for the LGPS 2014 scheme. Employers have also been reminded of their responsibilities for Autoenrolment.	Zoe Stannard & Andy Cunningham	Nov-14	1	1	1	Low	22 May 2014	→
PEN014	Failure to provide the service in accordance with sound equality principles	Corporate / Leadership / Organisation (Reputation)	Failure to recognise that different customers have different needs and sensitivities.	Some customers may not be able to access the service properly or may be offended and raise complaints. At worst case, this could result in a court case, etc.	David Anthony	The Fund has done an Equality Risk Assessment and has an Equality Implementation Plan in place	2	1	2	Low	None	David Anthony		2	1	2	Low	22 May 2014	→
PEN015	Failure to collect payments from ceasing employers	Finance	When an employer no longer has any active members a cessation valuation is triggered and a payment is required if a funding deficit exists to meet future liabilities	Failure to collect cessation payments means the cost of funding future liabilities will fall against the Wiltshire Pension Fund	David Anthony	The Pension Fund Committee approved a Cessation Policy in February 2010 to provide an agreed framework for recovery of payments. All new admitted bodies now require a guarantor to join the Fund.	2	2	4	Low	Work is on-going to develop monitoring of admitted bodies who are close to cessation to enable the Fund to have an early dialogue with them to ensure costs are met.	Andrew Cunningham	Sep-14	2	1	2	Low	22 May 2014	→
PEN016	Treasury Management	Finance	The Fund's treasury function is now segregated from Wiltshire Council. This includes the investment of surplus cash in money markets.	Exposure to counterparty risk with cash held with external deposit holders could impact of Funding level of the Fund	David Anthony	The Pension Fund approved an updated Treasury Management Strategy in Feb 2013 which follows the same criteria adopted by Wiltshire Council but limits individual investments with a single counterparty to £6m.	3	1	3	Low	The Council uses Sector's credit worthiness service using ratings from three rating agencies to provide a score. Surplus cash is transferred to the Custodian at month end ensuring cash balances are minimal.	Catherine Dix		3	1	3	Low	22 May 2014	→

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PEN017	Lack of expertise on Pension Fund Committee	Professional judgement & activities	Lack of structured training and continuous self assessment of skills gap to ensure knowledge levels are adequate to carry out roles to the best of their ability	Bad decisions made may be made in relation to any of the areas on this register, but particularly in relation to investments. There is also a requirement for Fund's to 'Comply or Explain' within their Annual Report on the skills knowledge of members of the Committee	David Anthony	Members are given Induction Training when they join the Committee, as well as subsequent opportunities to attend courses/seminars and specialist training at Committee ahead of key decisions. There is a Members' Training Plan and Governance Policy. Help can be called on from our consultants and independent advisors too.	2	2	4	Low	The CIPFA Local Government Pension Fund Knowledge & Skills Framework require members of the committee to be regularly assessed to identify knowledge gaps and ensure training is provided to address these. Now the current training plan has ended Members will have to be reassessed to formulate a new plan.	David Anthony		2	1	2	Low	22 May 2014	---->
PEN018	Failure to implement the LGPS 2014 Reforms	Service Delivery	Failure to implement the LGPS 2014 in time for April 2014 in terms of systems changes, data requirements, communications and training.	Unable to meet the new legislative requirements of the scheme and to administer the Fund correctly.	David Anthony	A communication policy implemented to inform all members of the changes. Implementation Plan is on-going. Systems team in close contact with Software are providers to ensure developments will be actioned. Review of process being undertaken by Technical & Compliance Manager to ensure changes are compliant.	3	2	6	Medium	The transitional regulations and GAD guidance were only issued in March and GAD. Therefore, not all changes could be implemented so focus has been on key areas and these were successfully updated. All other areas are being worked on with changes being reviewed by Compliance. The system is being updated by the software provider for areas which couldn't be included in earlier releases due to the late delivery of regulations.	David Anthony		2	2	4	Low	22 May 2014	---->